



Page 2

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-0280.

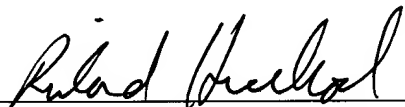
A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

X Any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 for the presentation of extra Claims.

X Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17.

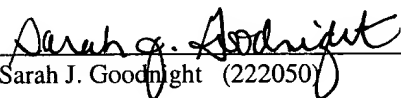
Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 28, 2005

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 28, 2005.

  
Sarah J. Goodnight (222050)



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|   |   |                             |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| In Re: U.S. Patent Application of   | ) |                             |
| WILLIAM H. WHITE, III, et al  | ) | Examiner: HUYNH, Kim T.     |
|   | ) |                             |
| Application No. 09/888,158  | ) | Conf. No.: 8179             |
|   | ) |                             |
| Filed: June 25, 2001  | ) | Art Unit: 2112              |
|   | ) |                             |
| For: METHOD, SYSTEM AND PROGRAM<br>FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF<br>MODBUS MESSAGES BETWEEN<br>NETWORKS | ) | Attorney Docket No.: SAA-57 |

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED JANUARY 5, 2005**

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
PO BOX 1450  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

DEAR SIR:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated January 5, 2005. A shortened statutory period of three months has been set for response, making this Reply due on April 5, 2005. Therefore, this Reply is considered timely. Reconsideration of the referenced application, including all pending claims, is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and the remarks set forth below.

This Amendment and Reply is being submitted in a form which complies with revised 37 C.F.R. 1.121. Accordingly, all pending claims are identified by number and appropriate status identifier.

Please amend the application as follows:

**Claims** are reflected in the listing of the claims that begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.